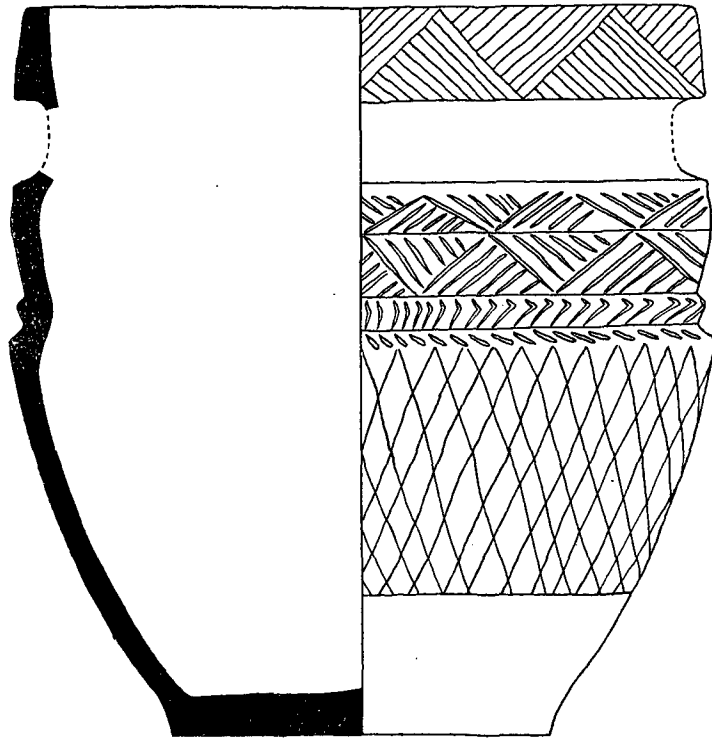


2. AN UNUSUAL CINERARY URN FROM DROUGHDOOL, NEAR DUNRAGIT,
WIGTOWNSHIRE.

In January 1945 Mr Grant of the Department of Agriculture for Scotland informed the Museum that sherds had turned up in digging a drain at Droughdool, near Dunragit, sending at the same time specimen sherds. These were so unusual that I asked Mr Grant to suspend digging at the site till I could go down in person—it was snowing at the time—which he kindly did. With the approach of warmer weather, I repaired to Dunragit with Mr Eoin MacWhite, a graduate student in my Department.



Cinerary urn from Droughdool (hypothetical reconstruction $\frac{1}{3}$).

The sherds had been found just on the crest of a low ridge of sandy soil some 25 feet above O.D., less than one-third mile north of the estuary of Piltanton Burn. There the Department had built a guardian's cottage. The trench for a drain, just west of the cottage, had cut right through the burial, and the diggers had broken the urn. Portions had already been brought to the Department's office with bits of burnt bone. By sifting the spoil heap beside the spot, we found a few more sherds and bits of bone and a flint scraper. There was no sign of any cist, nor did examination of the walls of the trench, which was still open, disclose any additional features or sherds.



1. Cinerary Urn from Droughdool.



2. Bronze Finger Ring.

The urn displayed unusual characters, but unfortunately is very imperfect. The clay being badly fired, the fragments were in a very friable state, and portions must have been totally destroyed by the tools of the diggers. What survives does not suffice for a reliable reconstruction of the whole vessel. Enough of the base survived to show that it was about $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick. Unhappily, none of the surviving fragments of the walls join on to the bit of base. The lower part of the urn is shaped like an inverted cone slightly curved and rises for somewhat over 6 inches to a sharp shoulder $\frac{5}{16}$ inch wide which is encircled by an applied moulding and surmounted by a bulging neck at least $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch long. Only a fragment of the upper part of this bulge is preserved to show that the "neck" was about $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch long and that it did not then terminate in a finished rim, but in a groove or concavity, the margin of which has crumbled away. But the sherds collected do include two fragments of an undoubted rim. These fragments, in texture and in the technique of their decoration, agree perfectly with the rest of the indubitably connected sherds, but in form are nothing more nor less than the "overhanging rim" of a typical Cinerary Urn of that family. These segments for size would fit in quite well with the rest of the vessel, and it has been reconstructed in fig. 1 on the assumption that they did so fit, with the reservation that no actual join could be effected, so that the interval between neck and rim is quite unknown. On this assumption the urn must have stood between $10\frac{1}{2}$ and $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, but only about $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches of this height is directly attested by connected sherds. (Pl. XVII, 1.)

The urn is composed of the coarse clay usual in the Bronze Age, comprising large angular grits, which has fired black, but the surface inside and out is covered with a layer of somewhat finer clay which burned brownish red externally and brown to black inside. But even on the outside there are dirty brown blotches notably on the neck. The body is decorated with a net of criss-cross scorings, very negligently executed with a rather blunt implement. Oblique jabs with a similar tool adorn the shoulder, while rather deeper jabs form a herring-bone pattern along the moulding. The neck is decorated with two bands of alternating filled triangles separated, and bordered below (but not above), by horizontal lines. The wide collar of the rim's overhang bears a similar pattern, while its flattened lip is ornamented with oblique jabs crossing one another. The lower part of the urn could pass for a large and ornate version of a type E Food Vessel—a distinctively Hibernian type represented, however, in Scotland by a specimen from the rather early urnfield of Brackmont Mill. Another specimen, albeit considerably smaller (about 5 inches high), was found with other urns in an irregular oval "cist" under a small cairn on the farm of Cairngaun, Kirkmaiden Parish, Wigtownshire. From the engraving in the *Archæological and Historical Collections of Ayrshire and Galloway*, vol. v. (1885), p. 45, fig. 45, the decoration of this little vessel resembled ours in the irregularly scored net pattern on the body, the jabbed herring-bones on the shoulder, and the erect triangles on the neck. But it bore in addition horizontal cord impressions, not only on the outside, but also inside the rim, as do some Irish Food Vessels of type E and that from Brackmont Mill. In any case the applied moulding is unusual in this class and looks forward rather to the pie-crust ornament of Highland Iron Age pottery than backwards to Skara Brae and the Encrusted Urns. Of course the superposition on such a Food Vessel derivative of the collar appropriate to the English family of Overhanging Rim Urns is an unique example of hybridization (assuming the collar really did once join on).

This unique vase once more emphasizes the individual blending of traditions that could occur on the populous territory of the Glenluce Sands. In the spoil

heap from the drain we unearthed a thick irregular flint, probably derived from a pebble, with a maximum length of $\frac{2}{10}$ inch, one end of which has been roughly trimmed by the removal of five little flakes to a rather steep scraper-edge. The implement shows no evidence of exposure to fire and need not have formed part of the burial deposit.

The Department of Agriculture for Scotland has kindly donated the urn to the Museum, which is particularly indebted to the Department's officer on the spot for notifying the find and for help in recovering the relics. Emeritus Professor Alexander Low has very kindly examined the cremated remains with results reported below.

V. GORDON CHILDE,
Director of the Museum.

REPORT ON THE INCINERATED BONES.

The larger pieces of cremated bone can be identified as belonging to an adult human skeleton.

There are pieces of bones of cranium—parietal, occipital, and also one piece of right temporal and one piece of left temporal, each showing the articular surface for condyle of lower jaw; eight pieces of vertebræ and three fragmentary ribs; fragment of upper articular end of a humerus and two pieces of lower articular ends of humeri—one right and other left; two fragments of forearm bones and proximal phalanx of right thumb; several pieces of shafts of femora and tibiæ and upper articular surface of a tibia.

The weight of the cremated bone is one pound seven ounces.

ALEXANDER LOW.